Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2010/07/21 : CIA-RDP90-00552R000302480008-8

STAT

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE A-24

NEW YORK TIMES
5 DECEMBER 1982

London Espionage Trial Spurs Debate in Canada

By MICHAEL T. KAUFMAN
Special to The New York Times

OTTAWA, Dec. 4 — The London espionage trial of a Quebec economics professor has led to calls in Canada's Parliament for a fuller explanation of the case and has raised broader questions about the effectiveness of Canada's security laws.

Specifically, some legislators want to know why the suspect, Hugh Hambleton, a 60-year old Laval University professor charged with passing secrets to the Soviet Union, is being tried in Britain rather than in Canada. They also want to know why officials here warned Professor Hambleton that he might face trouble if he traveled to Britain.

These questions have come up amid observations that there have been no successful prosecutions for suspected breaches of Canadian security laws for 15 years.

Government officials have said that answers to such questions may improperly influence the British trial.

Robert Kaplan, the Solicitor General, and Mark MacGuigan, the Minister of Justice, refused to comment on an assertion this week by Mr. Hambleton's lawyer that his client had been a double agent working for the French and Canadian authorities to infiltrate the K.G.B., the Soviet state security agency.

But Allan Lawrence, a Conservative Member of Parliament who was Solicitor General when the Hambleton case first broke three years ago, emphatically rejected the double agent explanation.

Mr. Lawrence said that when he interviewed Mr. Hambleton, the suspect never indicated that he had worked for the Canadian Government. He said it had been his intention to charge and prosecute Mr. Hambleton for espionage, but the Conservatives had then been swept from power and replaced by the Liberal Government of Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau.

Mr. Lawrence said on Wednesday that he believed Mr. Kaplan, his successor as Solicitor General, had not tried Mr. Hambleton because of what he said were Liberal Party policies of "making deals" with Canadians accused of being traitors in order to get information.

Two days later, despite continuing silence in Parliament, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police reported that they were sending an officer to London with documents to aid the prosecution of Mr. Hambleton.

This move cast doubt on the assertion that the professor had worked for Canadian intelligence, but it gave weight to criticism suggesting that Canadian laws were so hopelessly ineffective that the only way spies here could be brought to account was to have them travel abroad.

Mr. Trudeau, at a news conference on Monday, said no charges had been filed against Mr. Hambleton because there had been insufficient proof to obtain a conviction under the Canadian Official Secrets Act.

During questioning in Parliament Mr. Kaplan said Mr. Hambleton volunteered valuable information after the threat of prosecution was withdrawn in 1980.

He also said the police advised Mr. Hambleton that he faced a "hostile reception" if he carried out plans to go to England for a sailing holiday.

Mr. Kaplan offered no explanation why such a warning had been given to a man now charged with maintaining espionage links with Soviet agents from 1956 to 1979. Mr. Hambleton, whose parents were British and who held both Canadian and British nationality, traveled to England despite the warning, and was arrested there last June.

The case has again focused attention on what some Liberal and Conservative politicians have condemned as a porous national security network, undermined by a key law that Government officials concede is inoperative.

That law, the Canadian Official Secrets Act, has been denounced by two judicial commissions as being too broad in its wording to have validity. "It covers everything and yet nothing," said a Justice Department official. Mr. Kaplan is seeking to replace it with new legislation as part of what he recently described as "a general adjustment of Canada's security policy."

Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2010/07/21 : CIA-RDP90-00552R000302480008-8